

P A T E N T

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: )  
 )  
Leitner, et al. )  
 )  
Application No.: )  
 )  
Filed: Herewith )  
 )  
For: **METHOD AND DEVICE FOR DETERMINING THE CONTOUR**  
**OF A RECESS IN A PIECE OF MATERIAL**

**MAIL STOP PATENT APPLICATION**  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as Express Mail (No. EV132074594 US) addressed to MAIL STOP PATENT APPLICATION, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on July 31, 2003.

By: Carol Prentice  
Carol Prentice

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Dear Sir:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.56, Applicants wish to call the attention of the Examiner to the following references:

**U.S. PATENTS:**

<u>Patent No.</u>	<u>Patentee</u>	<u>Date of Issue</u>
6,106,464	Bass et al.	Aug. 22, 2000
6,006,126	Cosman	Dec. 21, 1999

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS:**

<u>Country</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Date of Publication</u>
Germany	199 51 502	Jan 18, 2001
International	00/56215	Sep 28, 2000

**Information Disclosure Statement**  
**Leitner, et al.**  
**Page 2**

International	99/15097	Apr 01, 1999
International	99/38449	Aug 05, 1999
Germany	196 39 615	Apr 09, 1998

**PUBLICATIONS:**

Patent Abstracts of Japan, "SURGICAL NAVIGATION APPARATUS",  
vol. 2002, no. 02, April 2, 2002, publication no. 2001 293006,  
October 23, 2001.

The references listed above were cited by the International Examiner in the Search Report (copy enclosed) of Applicants' counterpart international patent application no. PCT/EP02/00793 (MPEP §2001.06(a)).

DE 196 39 615 was also cited by the German examiner in Applicants' corresponding German patent application.

DE 196 39 615 has two English language counterparts, namely U.S. Patent Nos. 5,769,861 and 6,351,659 submitted herewith.

**OTHER PUBLICATIONS:**

Patent Abstracts of Japan, "METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR MEASUREMENT OF INSIDE SHAPE OF UNDERGROUND HOLE", Publication No. 06341831, December 13, 1994.

The reference listed above was cited by the German Examiner in Applicants' corresponding German patent application 101 05 822.5 (MPEP §2001.06(a)).

Information Disclosure Statement  
Leitner, et al.  
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OTHER U.S. PATENTS:

<u>Patent No.</u>	<u>Patentee</u>	<u>Date of Issue</u>
5,769,861	Vilsmeier	Jun 23, 1998
6,351,659	Vilsmeier	Feb 26, 2002

Copies of the above-listed references are enclosed, together with a completed form PTO-1449.

Consideration of these references by the Examiner is respectfully requested.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,



Date: July 31, 2003  
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.: HOE-768

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<b>FORM PTO-1449</b>				<b>ATTY. DOCKET NO.:</b> HOE-768		<b>SERIAL NO.:</b>	
<b><u>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</u></b>				<b>APPLICANT(S):</b> Leitner, et al.			
				<b>FILING DATE:</b> Herewith		<b>GROUP:</b>	
<b>U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>							
<b>EXAMINER INITIAL</b>		<b>DOCUMENT NUMBER</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>NAME</b>	<b>CLASS</b>	<b>SUB- CLASS</b>	<b>FILING DATE</b>
	AA	6,106,464	08/22/2000	Bass et al.			
	AB	6,006,126	12/21/1999	Cosman			
	AC	5,769,861	06/23/1998	Vilsmeier			
	AD	6,351,659	02/26/2002	Vilsmeier			
<b>FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>							
		<b>DOCUMENT NUMBER</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>COUNTRY</b>	<b>CLASS</b>	<b>SUB- CLASS</b>	<b>TRANS- LATION YES NO</b>
	AE	199 51 502	01/18/2001	Germany			
	AF	00/56215	09/28/2000	International			
	AG	99/15097	04/01/1999	International			
	AH	99/38449	08/05/1999	International			
	AI	196 39 615	04/ 09/1998	Germany			
<b>OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)</b>							
	AJ	Patent Abstracts of Japan, "SURGICAL NAVIGATION APPARATUS", vol. 2002, no. 02, April 2, 2002, publication no. 2001 293006, October 23, 2001.					
	AK	Patent Abstracts of Japan, "METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR MEASUREMENT OF INSIDE SHAPE OF UNDERGROUND HOLE", Publication No. 06341831, December 13, 1994.					
<b>EXAMINER</b>				<b>DATE CONSIDERED</b>			
<b>EXAMINER:</b> Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.							